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## Message from the Mayor

Democracy is a powerful idea, and the residents of the District of Columbia supported it on November 2, showing up in impressive numbers to cast ballots for new DC Councilmembers, new Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners, new school board members and other offices.

There are approximately 383,000 registered voters in the nation's capital. On election day, more than 203,000 of them cast ballots—about 53 percent. More than 4,500 of our residents cast absentee ballots, making the total return about 54 percent for the November election.

It's my hope that voter turnout among our citizenry remains high in future elections, and that we continue our long tradition of civic participation.

We've got new three new Councilmembers, new ANCs, and new school board members. Keep in mind, we fund our public schools to the tune of \$1 billion per year, 57 percent more than when I came into office. I encourage you to ask the school board tough questions and hold members accountable.

Democratic candidate John F. Kerry ran away with 90 percent of the vote in the District. However, on behalf of the residents of the District, I congratulated President Bush and Vice-President Cheney November 4 on their reelection.

In the president's new term, I want to work with him to quickly achieve three essential goals for the District:

- Full voting rights: It's time for the District to become all that America is supposed to be. I'm asking President Bush to send a bill for full voting rights to the Congress.
- Budget autonomy: We've earned it. We need it. We must have it to serve our residents. I'm asking President Bush to resubmit our autonomy bill and help us move it through the House of Representatives.
- Permanently fixing the structural imbalance in our relationship with the federal government—we give 40 percent of our land to the federal government, but get no taxes in return. The federal government created the imbalance. The Government Accounting Office (GAO) confirmed it exists. It's time for the federal government to fix it. I've discussed this with the White House for four years—and now it's time to act. I'm asking President Bush to include a permanent solution for the structural imbalance in his budget.

We've made good progress with this White House: I cite our three-fold approach to education as a prime example.

Over the next four years, I'll work with the Bush administration on these priorities and others—like continued funding increases for education, our Tuition Assistance Grant Program, the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative and Combined Sewer Overflow, and support for health programs in the District.

On a personal level, I invite President Bush to spend more time with me in our city. Beyond being impressed with what we've done, I think he'd enjoy seeing the people, history and culture of the city that will be his home until 2008. For now, we'll focus on making the inauguration a great success. I'm committing to making the District a full partner in inauguration planning and execution. I believe that what we can do as a city symbolizes what we can do as a country.



# DC Marketing Center Annual Luncheon

On November 2, I delivered remarks at the third Annual Meeting Luncheon and DC Development Showcase for the DC Marketing Center. The luncheon and showcase celebrated the District's development and the Center's accomplishments over the past year. The event showcased the hospitality and tourism industry and featured Bill Marriott as the keynote speaker.

The great inventor Thomas Edison once said: "Restlessness and discontent are the first necessities of progress." Well, six years ago we were restless, dreaming of creating a new Washington DC—and a new nation's capital.

Our efforts are paying off. Today, the nation's capital is experiencing a \$34.4 billion development boom—one of the largest construction cycles in our city's history. And, our hospitality and tourism industry accounts for \$9.5 billion worth of our development, with a total of 133 projects.

These projects include the Washington Convention Center, International Spy Museum, National Museum of the American Indian, Mandarin Hotel, Hotel Monaco, National Portrait Gallery, the new Shakespeare Theater, and the Corcoran Gallery of Art expansion.

In recent years, my economic development team has recognized the importance of hospitality and tourism to the District's economy. We realize that the industry is a mainstay of three things: job creation, enhanced sales tax, and visitor attraction. Our goal is to vigorously support the development of projects that can lead to the industry's success.

Two of those projects on the horizon are a proposed convention center headquarters hotel that will ensure the continuing success of our new convention center, and, a new baseball team and stadium that will support the tourism industry and attract visitors from Virginia, Maryland and around the world.

I'm thrilled to say that our city's hospitality and tourism industry has rebounded from the events of September 11th. We're now leading the country in many indicators such as hotel occupancy and convention bookings. Our hotel occupancy rates now hover between 75 percent and 80 percent. Furthermore, new hotels such as the Mandarin, Monaco and Sofitel have opened, proving our growth as a city.

We've also seen the return of special events, attracting record crowds, such as our Cherry Blossom Festival last spring, and the openings of the World War II Memorial and the National Museum of the American Indian. They all drew international crowds to our city.

My thanks go to the DC Marketing Center for recognizing and celebrating the contributions of the hospitality and tourism industry to the District's economy.

## Community Profile

### Reba M. Diggs

Reba Diggs, a Ward 4 resident, has been the backbone of the Phyllis Wheatley Young Women's Christian Association Inc. (PWYWCA) for nearly 10 years. As a member of the Board of Directors for the PWYCA, she has been the chairperson of the Property Care Department and treasurer.

"I never knew I retired," Reba said. "I've never been a person who just sits at home." Her husband of over 50 years, Raymond, has been active with her in the community.

As a volunteer for the PWYWCA, Reba has been responsible for overseeing the maintenance of all the tenants' rooms. She displayed a remarkable energy as she painted rooms, bargained for new furniture, and sewed homemade curtains. During a complete renovation of the facilities in 1998, Reba served many hours on the Renovation and Planning Team for the organization.



PWYWCA was founded in the District of Columbia in 1905 as a nonprofit that supports and assists thousands of those in need. Today, the organization focuses on providing affordable housing and development programs for low-income women.

Reba has also been part of the DC Federation of Civic Associations, Inc. where she chaired the scholarship awards program to honor local high school students. She has held leadership positions in the Brightwood Community Association and is an active member of the Metropolitan Baptist Church. The motto she has learned from church, Reba said, is "if you see a need, you fill it."

Reba is the July adult winner of the Mayor's Community Service Award, sponsored by Serve DC. If you would like to nominate a youth or adult for the monthly award, visit [www.serve.dc.gov](http://www.serve.dc.gov) for nomination information, or call (202) 727-7925.



## Traffic Control Rollout

On October 28, I joined a host of city leaders to introduce the District's new Traffic Enforcement Officers (TEOs), who will work in our city's downtown to promote motor vehicle traffic mobility and, as a result, reduce air pollution in the nation's capital.

The TEOs have been deployed as part of a joint project of the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), DC Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD). DDOT contributed the funds and with MPD selected the locations where traffic congestion was a major factor in the efficient movement of vehicles and people.

Training of TEOs is also a joint DDOT-MPD effort, with DDOT providing the funding for the uniforms and equipment. The approximately 37 TEOs have been trained at the MPD Training Academy. TEOs will be out during the morning and afternoon rush hours, Monday through Friday. When they are not directing traffic, the TEOs will act as parking control officers.

I'm excited about this new program. Keeping our busiest intersections free from gridlock is good for residents, commuters and visitors—and it's good for our city's air quality. Stationing the TEOs at key intersections will reduce rush-hour traffic jams, making travel easier for all of us who use our roads.

Bringing traffic relief to our downtown is important for the economic health of our city and region. Our expanding downtown is the economic engine of the District. More than 350,000 people work downtown each day and downtown businesses generate 50 percent of DC's economic output.

The Mayor's Downtown Congestion Task Force, convened by Councilmembers Carol Schwartz, Jack Evans, Sharon Ambrose, Jim Graham, and Harold Brazil, included intersection control in the strategies they've been working on since May. The task force is made up of 50 business, civic and government leaders who represent a broad spectrum of interests in downtown DC.

Our city is appreciative of the hard work that the task force has put into addressing the problem of congestion and we look forward to the task force's complete report in November.

In the past five years alone, 50,000 new jobs have been added to our downtown. By reducing downtown congestion, we also reduce cut-through traffic and congestion in our neighborhoods.

## Gallery Place Opening

Last week, I joined residents to mark the opening of Gallery Place—our city's newest urban destination featuring more than 1 million square feet of space where residents and visitors can live, work, play and shop. Roughly 500 people attended the event celebrating the economic revitalization of a corridor of our city that's been transformed in recent years.

Someone once said, "To plan is human, but to implement is divine." With Gallery Place, we have the result of smart planning and implementation by the community, business leaders, investors, real estate brokers and city economic development officials. Gallery Place is a magnificent addition to our city and will serve as an anchor for continued retail, residential, restaurant, and entertainment growth.

Our downtown is extraordinary! It has emerged as a vibrant mixed-use neighborhood with an 18-hour activity cycle. Hundreds of thousands of office workers come every day, and millions of people visit our museums and cultural facilities. Hundreds of thousands attend events at MCI Center, and thousands more now are choosing to live here.

Soon, we will have a beautifully renovated National Portrait Gallery across the street from Gallery Place complementing all of this new retail development. I have often said that I have the best "economist" in the world to prove the success of this neighborhood: The MCI Center, which opened in 1997.

By 2002, five years after the opening of the MCI Center, there were 62 projects up and running in this neighborhood. Those 62 projects were worth \$4.4 billion, created 34,500 jobs and generated \$141 million each year in tax revenue for the District. Gallery Place will be another huge economic boost and serve as another catalyst for further development to this area and the surrounding areas in our city.

The Gallery Place development is projected to generate \$12 million in sales and property taxes in the first year, and up to \$19 million when it is fully up and running. It is also expected to generate 680 union construction jobs and an estimated 800 permanent jobs.

As we move ahead and continue to raise new buildings throughout our city, we must ask ourselves an important question—Are we also creating a better place to live and work for our residents? I think we can answer that question with confident affirmation.



# Supporting Major League Baseball in DC

As I said during my address at the MCI Center on Cable Channel 16 on November 8, history is written in moments—and our moment has arrived. Soon, our City Council will have an opportunity to bring Major League Baseball to the nation's capital, creating thousands of new jobs, millions in new revenue and reviving one of the District's most treasured and tarnished jewels: the Anacostia River.

Think for a moment of the possibilities. From a quiet, dirty, forgotten waterway, the Anacostia can become a vibrant, bustling center of residential and commercial life. Gone will be the vacant buildings and the empty lots. In their place, houses will rise, along with restaurants, retail outlets and offices. Instead of silence, you'll hear the neon hum of commerce, the soft yellow of lights from condos—and the rhythm of workers making money and moving the economy.

You'll see a new Anacostia Waterfront, a new community, a strong riverfront for the people who have waited for so long. And, at the center of it, you'll see an engine—a new stadium. From it, people will flow in and out, taking Metro, spending money and driving the development of a new community.

We spent two years honing a Major League Baseball proposal with partners from across the city—and country. It will:

- Create thousands of new jobs
- Millions in new revenue
- Revive the Anacostia River

We're not using money for schools or recreation centers to pay for this. Instead the team owners, the city's largest businesses, and money from ballpark concessions will cover costs. We've shared every detail of our proposal with the Council, the public and the press.

The Anacostia waterfront is the right site for the stadium. Even those skeptical at first now agree with us. It is the spark that will rejuvenate the Anacostia waterfront. It will bring good-paying jobs for men and women to support themselves and their families. And it will create \$400 million for our communities. No other plan does that.

I believe in keeping commitments. This city made a commitment to build a ballpark on the waterfront. When Major League Baseball awarded us a team, we endorsed that commitment. I'm keeping it. A majority of the Council is keeping it—and I thank them for it. And while we're willing to talk about financing, it's time for others to keep that commitment, too.

## District Activities



On November 10, Mayor Williams presented a proclamation in honor of Veterans Day to Washington area veterans. At the podium is Effie Johnson, a 4th generation veteran from Washington, DC.



Mayor Williams made remarks at the grand opening of the Shell Hydrogen Station located at 3355 Benning Road, NE.



## Community News

- [Mayor Williams Congratulates President Bush and Vice President Cheney on Victory](#)
- [Mayor Announces Hypothermia Watch Partner Campaign](#)
- [Mayor Urges Council to Pass Baseball Bill in Address Broadcast on Cable TV](#)

[View All News Releases](#)

## Upcoming Events

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| <b>11/13,</b> | <b>Wards 7 and 8 Community Emergency Exercises</b>   |
| <b>11/16</b>  | Various Times and Locations  |
| <b>11/20</b>  | Contact: Kim McCall, (202) 673-7695  |
|               | <a href="http://dcema.dc.gov">DC Emergency Management Agency</a> ( <a href="http://dcema.dc.gov">http://dcema.dc.gov</a> ) |
| <b>11/20</b>  | <b>DC Energy Expo &amp; Consumer Choice Workshop</b>   |
|               | 10 am – 2 pm   |
|               | Washington Convention Center   |
|               | 801 Mount Vernon Place, NW   |
|               | Rooms 102 A & B  |
|               | Contact: (202) 727-3071  |

